

Daily Press Briefing
Tom Casey, Deputy Spokesman
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QUESTION: And also on May Day, have any of the economic and social changes Raul Castro has made in Cuba changed American policy over the last few months?

MR. CASEY: No.

QUESTION: What can he do to change American policy?

MR. CASEY: What can he do? Well, I'm glad you asked that question. I'm not sure some of your colleagues are. No, seriously, look, we've enunciated, I think, very clearly, what we would expect from a government in Cuba in order to achieve a different kind of relationship with the United States. That starts, first and foremost, with releasing the scores of political prisoners who are currently in jail, have been in jail, both under Fidel Castro and Raul Castro. It would include doing things like not breaking up and harassing those relatives of prisoners who try to demonstrate their support for their family members and their desire to see them released. The *Damas de Blanco* recently had a rally broken up in a rather nasty way by the Cuban Government. It would include, in addition to letting people go that they've already unjustly imprisoned, allowing citizens of that country to have some basic political rights, to be able to stand in the squares and town halls in Cuba and actually protest actions by the government, actually not have to be fearful that any criticism of the government would wind them up in prison.

And then, most importantly, the real way that the Government of Cuba can show it's serious about reform is by starting a process that would lead to free and fair elections, that would allow the people of that nation an opportunity to actually choose their leaders in a multiparty, multicandidate election that would allow them a real choice and a real opportunity to decide who's going to lead their country.

Yeah, Sue.